

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 20, 2005. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 14-19 are allowed, and that claims 3 and 9 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Song. This Section 102(e) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires "wherein at least one of the first substrate and the second substrate has a light-shield layer overlapping at least part of boundary region defined as regions separating the plurality of liquid crystal regions from each other, and the at least part of boundary region overlapping the light-shield layer is a region permitting liquid crystal molecules surrounding the region to tilt so that *ends of the liquid crystal molecules closer to the substrate having the light-shield layer go away from the boundary region when a voltage is applied between the first electrode and the second electrode.*" For example, see light-shield layer 40 in Fig. 1B of the instant application that overlaps boundary region 33. Moreover, for example, Fig. 1B of the instant application illustrates that ends 30a1 of the LC molecules closest to the substrate having light-shield layer 40 point away from the boundary region 33.

Song fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined/italicized features of claim 1. In particular, Song fails to disclose or suggest "ends of the liquid crystal

molecules closer to the substrate having the light-shield layer go away from the boundary region when a voltage is applied between the first electrode and the second electrode” as required by claim 1. Song is entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 1 in this respect. Instead, Song teaches the opposite of claim 1. In particular, Fig. 5 of Song illustrates that the ends of the LC molecules closest to the light-shield layer 110 point toward (not "away") the boundary region where the layer 110 is located. Thus, it will be appreciated that Song teaches directly away from the invention of claim 1.

Claim 8 requires “a light-shield layer selectively shading the *first liquid crystal region* when the device is observed in a direction oblique from the normal to the display plane.” Song fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 8. When the device of Song is observed in the oblique direction, the light shield layer 110 illustrated in Fig. 5 of Song does not shade the first liquid crystal region; but instead purports to shade the liquid crystal region of which the retardation value first decreases then increases. In other words, the light shield layer 110 selectively shades the *second* liquid crystal region in Song – not the *first* region as required by claim 8. Song thus teaches the opposite of what claim 8 requires.

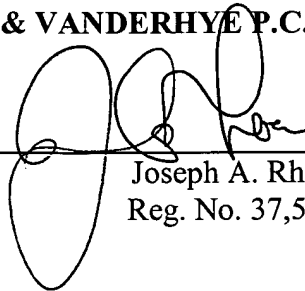
It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

OGISHIMA, K. et al.
Appl. No. 10/648,340

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rhoa', is written over a horizontal line.

Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100